

REMARKS

In the Office Action, the Examiner rejected claims 16, 17, 19-22, 28-31, 44-46, 56, and 61-64. Further, the Examiner objected to claims 18, 23-27, 32-41, 47, 57-60, and 65 for depending from a rejected base claim, but indicated that these claims each contain allowable subject matter. Applicant canceled claims 1-15, 42, 43, and 48-55 in a previous communication. Applicant thanks the Examiner for the recognition of allowable subject matter in the present claims. By the present Response, Applicant has chosen to place the present application in condition for allowance. Particularly, Applicant has amended claims 16, 28, 44, 56, and 62 to incorporate the allowable subject matter of claims 26, 33, 47, 58, and 65, respectively. Accordingly, Applicant has canceled claims 26, 33, 47, 58, and 65 without prejudice. Applicant also amended claims 27, 57, and 59 in view of the aforementioned amendments and to correct an informality noted by the Examiner in the Office Action. Additionally, Applicant added new claims 66-69, which include subject matter the Examiner has already indicated as allowable, as discussed below. Upon entry of the amendments, claims 16-25, 27-32, 34-41, 44-46, 56, 57, 59-64, and 66-69 will be pending in the present patent application and are believed to be in condition for allowance. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the outstanding rejections and allowance of all pending claims.

Claim Objections

In the Office Action, the Examiner objected to claims 16, 28, and 57 for various informalities. Applicant thanks the Examiner for noting these clerical errors. Applicant has amended the claims as set forth above to correct these informalities. In view of these amendments, Applicant believes these objections to the claims are now moot. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the Examiner's objections to claims 16, 28, and 57.

New Claims


New claims 66-69 have been added by this Response. These new claims add no new matter and are fully supported throughout the specification. Furthermore, in view of the earlier cancellation of claims 1-15, 42, 43, and 48-55, which included four independent claims, no fees are believed due for the addition of claims 66-69 in this Response. Applicant respectfully notes that each of these new claims contains subject matter which the Examiner indicated allowable in the Office Action. Particularly, claim 66 generally includes the subject matter of allowable claim 18 written in independent form including the recitations of original base claim 16. Further, claims 67-69 generally recite the subject matter of claims 32, 34, and 38, respectively, written in independent form including the recitations of original base claim 28. For reasons including those provided by the Examiner in the Office Action, claims 66-69 are believed to be patentable and in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of claims 66-69.

Conclusion

In view of the remarks and amendments set forth above, Applicant respectfully requests allowance of the pending claims. If the Examiner believes that a telephonic interview will help speed this application toward issuance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned at the telephone number listed below.

Respectfully submitted,

Date: December 21, 2005



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